

REMARKS

Claims 2-9, 11-14, 16-20 and 22 presently are pending in the application.

Claim Objections

Claim 6 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of claim 2. The foregoing amendment to claim 6 is believed to overcome this objection.

Response to Arguments

The prior art rejections in the previous Office Action have been maintained. With respect to the Rule 132 Declaration previously submitted on August 23, 2004, the Examiner maintained that "it is unclear if the benefits can be attributed to the bundle spacing or the specific bundle structure". See Advisory Action mailed on November 2, 2004. In response to the Examiner's comments, submitted herewith is a new Rule 132 Declaration. Applicants respectfully submit that the Rule 132 Declaration submitted herewith provides a sufficient and complete showing of unexpected results to rebut the prior art rejections.

First, regarding the Examiner's contention that "the structure of the reinforcing material is not constant between the respective examples (e.g., the structure of the bundles is different)", Applicants respectfully point out that, as a practical matter, the total number of the cords embedded in the layer has to be within a certain number to maintain sufficient pressure. If the specific bundle structure is fixed and the bundle spacing increases, the total amount of the cords embedded in the cord layer will decrease, i.e., the tire width is fixed. In other words, as a practical matter, the examples must take into account the strength of the tire. Likewise, if the bundle spacing is fixed and the specific bundle structure increases, the total amount of the cords embedded in the cord layer will increase, and the weight of the tire will become too great. Thus, as a practical matter, it is not as easy as the Examiner seems to suggest to maintain a constant structure of the reinforcing material between respective examples.

The Rule 132 Declaration submitted herewith includes a table (Table 4) with new example tires 13-19 and new comparative examples 5-7. Each of the variables (G_1 , G_2 , Delta G , and arrangement of metal wires) in example tires 13-19 is within the ranges recited in claim 2. If any of the variables are outside the claimed ranges, the resulting separation length is demonstrated to exceed 8 mm, resulting in a lack of marketability. See, e.g., comparative examples 5-7.

Looking at comparative example 5 and example 13, it is seen that when the thickness of the layer increases (i.e., G_1 and G_2 become greater), the mutual effect between the inner and outer layer weakens and the separation length becomes unacceptably large.

Looking next at comparative examples 6 and 7 relative to examples 14 and 15, G_1 and G_2 are fixed, the number of the arrangement of metal wires increases and the δG increases too. Therefore the total number of the cords in the layer is almost equal. But if δG is held constant, the total amount of the cords in the layer will decrease resulting in a negative effect on the tire quality. Thus, as mentioned above, it is simply not possible to hold all variables except one constant. However, the specific examples shown are believed to demonstrate, to the best extent possible, the criticality of the claimed ranges.

Examples 16-18 show similar results as discussed above relative to examples 14 and 15 and comparative examples 6 and 7.

Example 19 is an additional data point for an increased diameter metal wire, meeting the relationships recited in claim 2, and having acceptable marketability.

Applicants respectfully request a personal interview with the Examiner, and the undersigned attorney will contact the Examiner shortly in that regard.

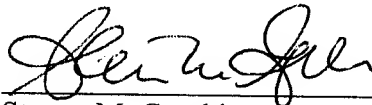
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Gruskin
Registration No. 36,818

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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